

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10-23 as being directed to non-elected subject matter or being made redundant by way of the amendments below.

Please amend claims 4 and 8 as follows:

A1
4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

A2
8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

Please add the following new claims 24-29:

A3
24. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

26. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

27. A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

28. A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

29. A vector according to claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence. --